

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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SUBJECT: JUNE 23 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NEA STEERING
COMMITTEE

1. WE EXPECT THE IEA SUB-GROUP ON ENERGY R&D TO APPROVE PROGRAM PROPOSALS ON NUCLEAR SAFETY AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AT ITS JUNE 19-20 MEETING IN WASHINGTON. THIS WILL SET THE STAGE FOR THE JUNE 23 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NEA STEERING COMMITTEE WHICH HAS BEEN CALLED TO CONSIDER IMPLICATIONS OF THESE PROPOSED PROGRAMS FOR NEA AS WELL AS THE GENERAL QUESTION OF THE IEA/NEA RELATIONSHIP.

2. SINCE THE NEA STEERING COMMITTEE DECIDED IN APRIL TO HOLD THIS SPECIAL MEETING, THE U.S. TOOK INITIATIVE AT THE IEA MINISTERIAL MEETING TO PROPOSE AN EXPANDED PROGRAM OF WORK IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD IN THE IEA- THIS INITIATIVE, WHICH WAS FAVORABLY RECEIVED BY THE MINISTERS, ADDS AN ADDITIONAL DIMENSION TO THE QUESTION OF HOW THE WORK OF THE TWO AGENCIES SHOULD BE RELATED.

3. PRIOR TO JUNE 23 MEETING, MISSION REQUESTED TO INFORM VAN LENNEP, NEA DIRECTOR GENERAL SAELAND, AND DELEGATIONS OF KEY IEA COUNTRIES OF U.S. THINKING ON THIS ISSUE. APPROACH SHOULD BE LOW-KEY AND INFORMAL SO AS NOT TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT U.S., AS ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF NEA, SEEKS TO EXERCISE UNDUE INFLUENCE OVER STEERING COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS. MISSION SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING IN DISCUSSING THE RESPECTIVE ROLES WE ENVISAGE FOR THE IEA AND NEA.

4. U.S. BELIEVES IT ESSENTIAL THAT THE IEA HAVE A POLICY-ORIENTED PROGRAM DESIGNED TO SUPPORT THE INSTALLATION OF NUCLEAR-GENERATING FACILITIES IN IEA COUNTRIES, SINCE INCREASED RELIANCE ON NUCLEAR POWER WILL LESSEN DEPENDENCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ON IMPORTED OIL. WORK ON THE NUCLEAR ISSUES SPECIFIED IN THE SECRETARY'S IEA SPEECH IS AN ESSENTIAL ASPECT OF THE IEA'S LONG-TERM COOPERATION EFFORT.

5. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE IEA SHOULD DUPLICATE EXISTING WORK IN THE NEA. FURTHER, WE BELIEVE THAT AN EXPANDED PROGRAM IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD WITHIN IEA WILL GIVE ADDED IMPETUS TO THE NEA PROGRAM.

6. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE MANNER IN WHICH THE IEA R&D PROGRAM ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT WAS DEVELOPED SO AS TO DRAW UPON THE EXPERTISE AND PRIOR EXPERIENCE OF THE

NEA. THE ACTUAL CONDUCT OF THIS PROGRAM WILL SIGNIFICANTLY INVOLVE THE NEA. THERE IS AN OBVIOUS POTENTIAL FOR SIMILAR COOPERATION IN THE NUCLEAR SAFETY R&D PROGRAM.

7. WE WELCOME THE JUNE 23 MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW BOTH PROGRAMS AND CONSIDER THEIR IMPACT ON THE OVERALL NEA PROGRAM.

8. AN EXPANDED IEA ACTIVITY IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD IS LIKELY TO RESULT IN IMPORTANT NEW PROGRAMS WHICH THE NEA COULD USEFULLY EXECUTE OR TO WHICH IT WOULD MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION. TO INSURE THAT PROPER COORDINATION BETWEEN THE TWO AGENCIES IS MAINTAINED ON THE POLICY LEVEL, WE WOULD EXPECT FORMAL LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS TO BE DEVELOPED TO LINK THE COMPETENT ORGAN OF THE IEA--WHICH MIGHT BE A COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR ENERGY POLICY ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD AND REPORTING TO IT THROUGH THE SLT--AND THE NEA STEERING COMMITTEE. THIS LIAISON WOULD ALLOW THE STEERING COMMITTEE TO REGISTER ITS REACTIONS TO NEW ACTIVITIES POTENTIALLY INVOLVING THE NEA AT AN EARLY STAGE. FYI AND FOR USE WITH KEY IEA COUNTRY DELEGATIONS. TO INSURE APPROPRIATE IEA/NEA RELATIONSHIP, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT LIAISON BE BETWEEN STEERING COMMITTEE AND AN ORGAN OF THE IEA OTHER THAN THE GOVERNING BOARD. END FYI.

9. ON ANOTHER MATTER OF CONCERN TO NEA STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS, WE BELIEVE THAT JOINT USE OF STAFF BY BOTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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AGENCIES IS AN IMPORTANT MEANS OF INSURING COORDINATION AND AVOIDING DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS. SHARING HAS WORKED WELL TO DATE AND U.S. HOPES IT WILL CONTINUE. GOOD ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICE SUGGESTS THAT IEA REIMBURSE THE NEA BUDGET FOR THE COST OF STAFF SUPPORT IT RECEIVES. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT USE OF JOINT STAFF ON NUCLEAR MATTERS DOES NOT PRECLUDE POSSIBILITY OF IEA ACQUIRING SMALL STAFF TO HANDLE WORK ON NON-NUCLEAR R&D. OUR PRESENT INCLINATION IS TO FAVOR ACQUISITION OF SUCH A STAFF BY THE IEA.

10. IN MAKING ABOVE POINTS TO IEA COUNTRY DELEGATIONS, MISSION SHOULD STRESS THAT WE CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT THE IEA RETAIN ITS ROLE AS THE AGENCY IN WHICH OUR OVERALL ENERGY POLICIES, INCLUDING R&D COOPERATION DECISIONS, ARE COORDINATED. WE BELIEVE THESE COUNTRIES SHARE OUR VIEWS AND WE HOPE THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS WOULD INSTRUCT THEIR STEERING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES TO TAKE POSITIONS AT THE JUNE 23 MEETING SUPPORTIVE OF AGREEMENT REACHED IN THE IEA ON THE NUCLEAR R&D PROJECT AND FAVORABLE TOWARD

THE FURTHER EVOLUTION OF A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE TWO AGENCIES.

11. IF ASKED WHETHER U.S. CONTEMPLATES BECOMING A FULL
MEMBER OF NEA, YOU SHOULD REPLY ALONG FOLLOWING LINES.
U.S. HAS NOT DECIDED TO JOIN NEA AS A FULL MEMBER, BUT
THIS IS A STEP WE MIGHT CONSIDER DEPENDING UPON WHETHER
THE POSSIBLE NEW IMPULSE TO NEA RESULTING FROM IEA NUCLEAR
WORK WOULD JUSTIFY U.S. PARTICIPATION AND THE PROVISION
OF THE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES WHICH U.S. MEMBER-
SHIP WOULD PROVIDE. KISSINGER

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